The next issue of CHALLENGE will appear in three weeks, after which we will resume our regular biweekly schedule.

PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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BLACK WORKERS LEAD FIGHT AGAINST HOSPITAL BOSSES

CHICAGO, July 23—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined over 100 multiracial hospital workers downtown to protest racist and sexist working conditions promoted by the bosses' healthcare industry. They led chants and blocked traffic, directly challenging the profit-hungry hospital bosses. This action planted seeds for future revolutionary communist struggle.

Workers organize to confront the bosses

The action was months in the making, organized through the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare local. Our main target was the downtown office of the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), a powerful lobbying group of hospital bosses from all over the state. These bosses regularly meet to scheme on how to influence local government bosses and collectively agree upon the lowest standards of pay and benefits for hospital workers across the board. These mainly women workers make poverty wages under disgusting working conditions, despite serving and saving patients' lives every day.

Comrades in working at a nearby hospital have been active in a campaign to unionize with our co-workers, and therefore have been connected with SEIU and were able to help plan this action. Workers decided to include an element of surprise against the IHA. Clearly visible were the hospital workers gathering in front of the IHA's corporate office to hold a press conference; what the bosses didn't expect were the workers and organizers on the edges of the lobby inside waiting to strike!

Black workers key to revolution

At the given signal, twenty hospital workers swarmed into the lobby and linked arms in a circle. A PL'er helped lead a mic check in the center of the circle, calling out the IHA for its racist, anti-worker attacks. Some Black women workers issued the collective demands of the hospital workers throughout the city area: a $15 per hour minimum wage, the right to unionize, dignity and respect on the job, and affordable health insurance from the bosses.

The scant building security was unprepared. They tried to break up the protest with intimidation, but the workers just locked arms tighter and chanted louder. The most inspirational moment came when dozens of hospital workers who had been standing outside spontaneously rushed the front doors to completely crowd the lobby and demonstrate working-class solidarity.

The demonstrators then spilled out into the street. They marched across the Adams Street bridge, temporarily blocking traffic. It ended at the nearby Presence Health System corporate office, which despite raking in millions in profits, was recently given a $5.5 million dollar handout in tax money from the racist city council (Chicago Sun-Times, 1/17). These are the same hospital systems that try to claim that they're broke when workers ask for raises, new equipment, and more staffing!

A woman worker took to the bullhorn to detail the sexist working conditions that she faces while working for Presence Health, including intimidation from the bosses and wage freezes. Personal stories like these really drive home the rotten nature of the capitalist profit system.

Understanding reform limits and revolutionary change

Practically everyone who participated in the action came out of it feeling fired up. It's important to analyze the balance of forces at play, and what signifies a lasting victory for the working class.

Even at their most militant and progressive, the role of trade unions under capitalism is to negotiate the terms of workers' exploitation by the bosses, and to put a cap on any workers' struggles that seek to directly challenge the existence of such an exploitative system. To achieve true workers' power and an egalitarian society, the struggle needs a revolutionary mass movement led by the communist PLP to completely destroy the profit system.

What's more, if the bosses were to provide a $15 per hour minimum wage, they would use their state power over the capitalist economy to regain those lost profits through charging more for our living essentials, such as housing, education, and medical care. In other words, what the bosses give up with one hand, they take away with the other.

We will continue to share ideas like these with our working-class sisters and brothers as we build the fight not only against our specific hospital bosses and the IHA, but also against the entire racist and sexist capitalist system. Black and Asian women hospital workers have been among some of the most active and outspoken organizers in the campaigns in which we've been involved, reinforcing our Party line that these sections of the working class have always represented a key revolutionary force.

Today, reform may have won. With struggle we will win our class to understand how workers create everything of value, and that communist revolution is the only way to ensure our needs are met.✪

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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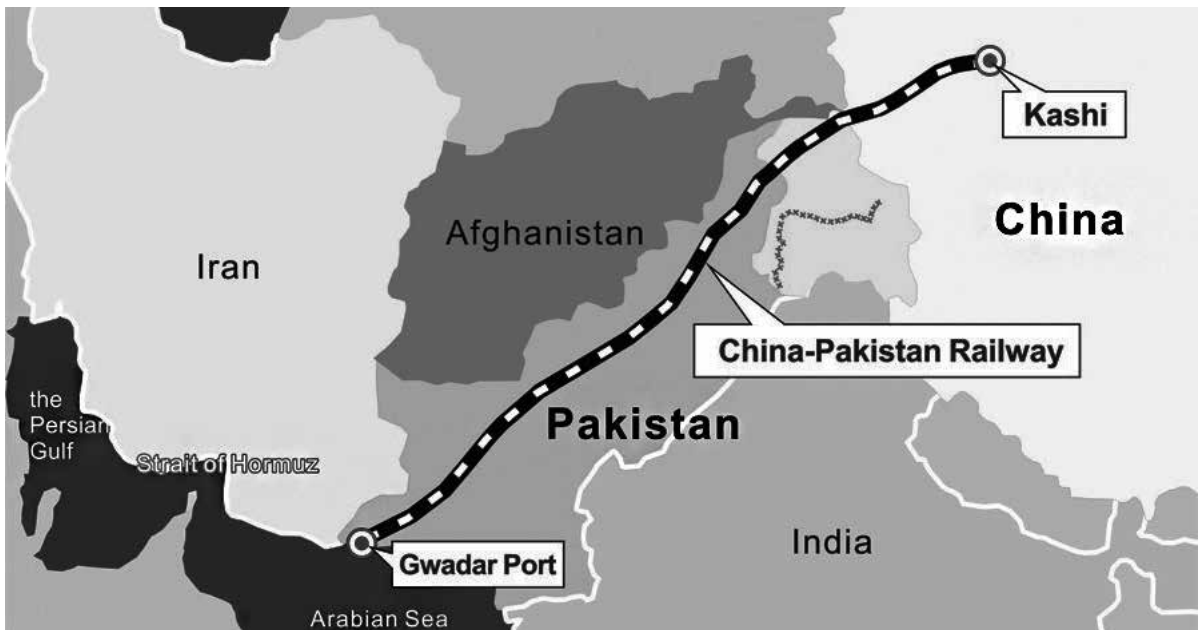
Editorial

Corridor of uncertainty

Pakistan bats for nationalist interest amid U.S.-China match



While Imran Khan, Pakistan's next prime minister, is already leaning toward China, the regional power's old bedfellow, U.S. imperialism, still has cards to play.

Since the collapse of workers' states in Russia and China, the rivalry between the world's leading imperialist powers continues to drive world events. Today, as a declining U.S. struggles to fend off a rising China, various smaller powers are jockeying for alliances with either one or both.

The latest hotspot is Pakistan, where the local capitalist bosses selected Khan, a one-time cricket superstar who rolled to a heavily rigged election victory July 25 (see page 5). The erratic celebrity candidate was backed by the military, which has ruled Pakistan for half its history. He was chosen for his popularity and support among young workers in particular, and most of all because Pakistan's rulers are desperate to keep the impoverished masses and a growing middle class in line amid economic crisis.

Leading up to the election, members of opposition parties were harassed and arrested. Others were forced by military intelligence agencies to join Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Criminal cases have been opened against nearly 17,000 opposition party supporters, and corruption investigations launched against several opposition party leaders (Guardian,7/21).

Workers in Pakistan are fed up with poor sanitation, roving black outs, high unemployment and religious violence. The reality, however, is that their material conditions will continue to deteriorate unless they break with dead-end politicians like Khan and join a movement to build a communist world, free of imperialist conquest and exploitation.

Big terror, little terror

Not so long ago, Pakistan was a major pillar of U.S. imperialism and a hedge against Soviet-leaning India. By 2001, after 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of neighboring Afghanistan, U.S. military aid to Pakistan amounted to billions of dollars a year. The Pakistani bosses' threw their public support behind the U.S. rulers' "War on Terror" against the U.S. bosses' own former creation, the Taliban, and its Al Qaeda offshoot, even as they privately hid and funded the Little Terrorists against the Big Terrorists of the U.S.

As the inevitable boom-and-bust cycle of capitalism hit Pakistan, the country's bosses were forced to repeatedly turn to the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) for billions in economic aid—a total of fourteen times since the 1980s (Bloomberg, 7/26). In 2015, as the IMF began pressuring Pakistan to repay the loans and dictated harsher attacks on the working class and its standard of living, masses of workers fiercely fought back (CHALLENGE, 5/20/16).

U.S. decay paves way for China's rise

Pakistan's bosses have seen U.S. imperialism kill hundreds of thousands in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan without anything resembling a U.S. victory. They are witnessing the turmoil under U.S. President Donald Trump, who tweeted: "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit….No more!" (1/1).

Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to fall behind on its loan repayments. Militant workers are demonstrating and striking for a better life. As Pakistan's bosses began looking for an alternative, neighboring China saw an opening to weaken U.S. control over Pakistan and extend its own imperialist reach through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as One Belt, One Road.

New money, same old imperialism

In 2015, China announced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a $62 billion effort to modernize Pakistan's infrastructure to serve China's rising economy:

> *The project is branded around the theme of connectivity: power stations, ports, dams, transmission lines, roads and fibre optic cables linking Pakistan to the Chinese internet. Among projects to be completed in 2018 are a mass-transit light railway in Lahore, and a coal-fired power plant in Karachi (Guardian, 8/3).*

In 2016, in return, Pakistan leased control of an entire city to China for over 40 years, the deep-water port of Gwadar. Over the next several years, new rail, road, gas, and oil pipeline networks will align Pakistan with major cities in western China, oil-rich Iran, the U.S.-dominated Middle East, and Africa.

Continued on page 4

Why Pakistan Matters

"With its youthful population of more than 200 million (66 percent are under 30), it is a country of vast potential handicapped by endemic poverty, illiteracy and inequality. It is also, not coincidentally, a battleground pitting anti-western Islamists, schooled in international jihad in Saudi-funded madrassas, against the secular, [English-speaking] elite. It is central to the "war on terror." Its stability and security, or lack of it, has a potentially global impact.

"For the British: Pakistan exercises an abiding fascination, rooted in the Raj's disastrous part in its bloody 1947 birth and in continuing, close ethnic and cultural ties.

"For the Americans: Pakistan plays the dual role of indispensable ally and duplicitous villain in their endless Afghan drama.

"For many in India: Pakistan is the nuclear-armed bogeyman next door.

"For imperialist China: Pakistan is a key link in its grandiose Belt and Road trading franchise, reliant on Beijing's loans, investment and goodwill" (Guardian, 7/29).

Mexico: PLP advances revolutionary politics at youth conference

There are phrases in this article that may not be familiar to some readers. See reference box to the right for explanations.

MEXICO CITY, August 8—A multiracial, multi-generational group of Progressive Labor Party comrades intensified the contradictions at a mass youth conference for the Summer Project here. We struggled with people to break away from venomous identity politics with the antidotes of internationalism and multi-racial unity.

The conference was advertised as anti-imperialist, anti-fascist, and democratic. PLP met young workers and students from across the world. Participants included delegations from Mexico, the U.S., El Salvador, Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Turkey, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and more. Each day the conference featured a central panel discussion on various topics such as fascism, imperialism, democracy, women's liberation, self-determination and education.

PLP stood out from the rest of the groups, sharing the revolutionary idea that poisonous identity politics such as nationalism and feminism only serve the bosses.

Education under capitalism serves capitalism

PLP members presented our communist analysis to the conference as a whole and various groups facilitated workshops and panels. During the education panel, we stated that all education serves the bosses under this capitalist system, so long as we are taught racist, sexist, and nationalist ideas that prepare the working class for war. For those youth who are too broken by capitalism, there is a school to prison pipeline so the ruling class can find another way to profit off the backs of the working class, since jobs can never be guaranteed under capitalism.

Our words were well received, and we were able to distribute over 500 DESAFÍOs, leaflets, and Road to Revolution IV (Progressive Labor Party's manifesto). We could have distributed more, but we ran out! This reflects the long term work that the Party once had on the host campus.

Project participants also met up with a group of friends from Puerto Rico that we met during a summer project on the island (see letter below).

No need to settle for socialism

During a workshop on "Capitalism in Crisis," a debate arose on the topic of socialism as a necessary stage to go through before advancing to communism.

During that discussion, we realized that many of these "left" organizations attending the conference do not have confidence in the working class. They argued that the workers of the world were not capable of going directly to communism because they are so backwards after living under capitalism for so long.

PLP members argued that all workers can understand communist ideology and use the science of dialectical materialism and political economy to destroy capitalism and create a true workers' state under communism, without a cult of personality or a vanguard.

Though many disagreed with our comrades, there were some who agreed that what we were saying was the correct analysis of what went wrong in the old communist movement.

Confidence in the working class

Bilingual PLP-led study groups on dialectical materialism and political economy with friends of the Party provided a sharp contrast to the conference workshops. At the conference, "experts" presented at length, leaving little time for people to speak on their experience, to debate, and to ask questions.

In contrast, Party study groups were facilitated in circles, where each participant was encouraged to speak and share their experiences. That is the difference when facilitators believe that the working class can truly lead society.

We simultaneously translated for a Black comrade from the U.S. who came because PLP is serious about one international working class, one party and one world. Simultaneous translation is difficult, but PLP members and our base were up to the task in breaking the language barriers caused by the bosses (see letter, page 6). Under communism, workers around the world will not be barred from communicating with each other. We will break the bosses' racist borders and their divisive languages.

PLP has confidence in the working class that we can learn dialectical materialism, no matter where we are in the world, as opposed to revisionists who believe only a vanguard elite can learn the science of communism. Workers are smart enough to produce what society needs so we can also learn the science we need in order to arm us with ideas that will help us take our world back from the bosses' death grip.

Struggling to break down gender roles

At the first study group, we were welcomed with delicious home cooked food made by several women. Two of the male comrades offered to contribute in the kitchen. The women refused, indicative of how prevlaent sexism is in this bosses-led world.

In the evening we traveled to another house where we studied political economy while eating delicious pastries and drinking coffee to fuel our discussion. The studygroups were held in two different houses with different workers. Intense as it was, it was met with enthusiatic participation.

In both studygroups, workers from Mexico and the U.S. discussed struggles we were involved in, from uniting teachers and students in Oaxaca, Mexico City, LA, and NY, to organizing on the job and in our neighborhoods.

Internationalism

Participants discussed the horrible working conditions that our class suffers around the world, including slavery in many parts of the world. We discussed attacks on our class, from the bosses ideas to the systematic murder of our working class sisters and brothers. We discussed communism as the only salvation for the workers of the world, where we will run society for the benefit of the many, not the few elites.

Exhausted & hungry, we all ended the night with pizza for dinner. A comrade indicated how important these study groups are, because the entire working class needs to break with capitalist ideology and free themselves with communist ideas in order to have a revolution.

We all felt honored to participate in the project, and hope to get together again soon. Smash racist borders! Fight for communism!✪

Communist language, explained

Dialectical materialism: a total world outlook and an all-embracing scientific method of comprehending and transforming material reality.

Socialism: half-way house between capitalism and communism. We learned from the former socialist countries of the Soviet Union and China that a half-stepped political economy with money and wages reverts back to its full capitalist ways.

Political economy: we are wrongly taught that politics and history are separate from economics. Political economy starts with the relationship between people and classes—the owners of wealth and how they exploit workers, and what is produced and how. Economics is political, historical, and social.

Cult of personality: this is the opposite of collectivity, which is when every member of society holds the responsibility to think, debate, and act in the interest of the whole working class. We don't rely on one person, no matter how charismatic, just like we don't rely on a vanguard party of the "most conscious and advanced" workers. We fight for a *mass* party in the true sense of the word—millions upon millions must give leadership for a communist world to be sustainable.

Criticism and self-criticism: the process of examining an individual's or collective's ideas and practice objectively in order to course correct and advance the struggle.

Friends from Puerto Rico debate PL politics

The friends that Progressive Labor Party made in Puerto Rico (see CHALLENGE 8//8) joined the Mexico project. They are a strong young group of fighters trying to improve the quality of education on their campus, as well as the living conditions in their community.

We met them for lunch at a local diner where we discussed the party's line. They said they agreed with most of our politics.

The diner was closing so we went back to the college campus where we sat on the ground, underneath a tent to continue our discussion. It seemed that we were having a disagreement on feminism. We made the point that feminism, like Black nationalism, is dependent on unity across classes—that means the oppressor and oppressed workers and bosses. We must never make this mistake because the ruling class by the nature of this system must exploit and oppress the working class to function. Some agreed with this while others explained that feminism doesn't have the same meaning in Puerto Rico as it does in the U.S., that it wasn't a unity with the bosses. They're may have been some traces of nationalist ideas.

The friends said they are very new to these ideas and has yet to become consolidated as a group. They also disagreed among themselves about feminism and nationalism. As a whole, the group looks promising because they practice criticism and self-criticism.

All members of the working class must struggle through these ideas. Because they choose to struggle, they have earned our respect. They expressed that they would like to collaborate because they recognized similar struggles the working class is facing in the U.S., Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

This is inspiring and a small leap for the international communist movement. We concluded our discussion with hugs and promises to link up soon. We look forward to continue the process of struggle and growth with these new comrades.

Five-year commemoration of Kyam Livingston

Families of police terror victims and antiracists unite

BROOKLYN, July 21—On a crowded hot Saturday, sixty antiracists took over the corner of Church and East 18th Street in commemoration of the five-year fightback for justice for Kyam Livingston.

In what was a powerful message against this racist system, three families of victims of police murder, along with antiracists, united to indict the New York Police Department. The working class needs more examples of Black women leadership like these. Progressive Labor Party fights for the ultimate justice for our class: communism.

This is what solidarity looks like

Students, teachers, local families, workers, youth and elders—Black and white—rallied together. We distributed flyers and CHALLENGEs. The loudspeaker was in constant use by people speaking about Kyam's life, Kyam's death, and the horrors of racism and capitalism. Anita Neal, Kyam's mother, as usual, brought tears to people's eyes when she spoke of how her daughter died in that filthy police holding cell.

Among the speakers was the sister of Shantel Davis, a 23-year-old woman murdered in 2012 by Black kkkop Phillip Atkins, known by the neighborhood as "Bad Boy Atkins" for his infamous brutal treatment of residents. The father of Saheed Vassell was also present. Saheed, 34 and mentally ill, was murdered by the police just this past April.

This level of long-term solidarity is a threat to the ruling class. When the racist thugs in blue murder our sisters and brothers, they are also unwittingly connecting a constellation of families ready to fight back and expose this system. When the next killing happens, that family will have a growing network of Black women-led fightback to turn to.

A speaker talked about how the system is unequal, particularly for Black and Latin workers. Some of the speakers connected gross injustices here in the U.S. to those in Israel-Palestine, Syria, Turkey, and South Africa. These inequities are caused by the drive for profit, while racism and sexism divide workers to maximize it.

Passersby stopped to listen, thank the crowd for fighting back, take literature, and even join the rally, including one person who felt particularly upset by his arrest and abuse at the hands of the police.

Take the streets for Kyam

The rally went on for about two hours and then we engaged in direct action in the form of chanting, "If we don't get it – shut it down!" We went out into the middle of the intersection and stopped the traffic while continuing to chant. Anita said she misses her daughter and thinks of her every day. We then released balloons into the wind.

They drifted up first against the buildings and then up and up into the sky. There were a few coppers across the street. They didn't dare to stop our rally or our takeover of the intersection. Why? Support for the continuing struggle against racist police murders in this neighborhood allows us to push the limits of what the police will allow.

It was a hot day. Still, the angry crowd gathered to remember Kyam and to call for justice for her and for all those who suffer under the system of police violence in U.S. capitalism.

This is just one struggle in the battle to end racism, sexism, and capitalism. Only a communist system, that needs all workers involved in building a world for each other instead of separating workers to maximize capitalist profits, can really end these oppressions.✪

Killed by racism

Kyam Livingston was a 37-year-old Black woman who was killed in a crowded cell at the Central Bookings jail on July 21, 2013. She had been arrested after a family dispute and became gravely ill as she was waiting to be arraigned.

Kyam, and the other women in the cell with her, cried for medical attention for 7 hours only to be disregarded and told to shut the f*** up. The arrested people were threatened, "Shut up before we lose your paper work and you won't be seen by a judge."

She was killed by racist medical neglect and cruelty inherent in this "land of freedom" for the rich. The NYPD robbed the family of a loved one. Kyam's then-21-year-old son Alex will not know justice under this system. He said, "It's not right for somebody to beg and plead for hours to get help. Who knows how much pain she was going through."

This was the fifth anniversary of her death. Kyam's mother Anita Neal and antiracists in the committee held rallies on the 21st day of each month for the four years after Kyam's murder.

To date, Anita has set up a small scholarship fund in her daughter's name to fight for social justice at a local junior high school.

We are also calling for a sign in Kyam's name to be put up on the corner of Church Avenue and E. 18th Street to honor this woman who became another victim of the racist violence inherent in capitalism.

Pakistan bats for nationalist interest amid U.S.-China match

Continued from page 2

Muhammad Zubair, governor of Sindh Province in Pakistan (including the commercial hub of Karachi and two gigantic seaports), is a close ally of Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister who was arrested on corruption charges 12 days before Khan's contested election. He openly acknowledges that the Chinese relationship is about more than economics: "It gives China the security leverage they desperately need. Obviously they want to compete with America….They have global ambitions, and we have been their friends long before anyone else" (Guardian,8/3).

But all that glitters is not gold. Chinese imperialism may seem less ruthless at the moment than the U.S. variety, but a wolf is still a wolf. In Sri Lanka, after their $8 billion dollar investment in various port projects failed to turn a profit, Chinese banks forced the island country into a 99-year lease on the port in Hambantota, with 70 percent ownership going to China (New York Times, 6/25).

'With U.S. imperialism in decline and China accelerating its challenge, the storm clouds of global war are fast approaching'

This is classic imperialism in action, and U.S. bosses are worried. They are stipulating that any future IMF loans cannot be used to pay off Pakistan's debt to China. The inter-imperialist rivalry in Pakistan exposes how big powers use "legal" banking institutions to keep nations impoverished and strong-arm them to do their bidding.

With U.S. imperialism in decline and China accelerating its challenge, the storm clouds of global war are fast approaching. The various rulers know they need to win workers to nationalist ideas to fight that war. But the international working class cannot be fooled by nationalist rhetoric. Whether it takes the form of liberal democracy, state capitalism, or openly fascist authoritarianism, all forms of capitalism are dictatorships of the bosses. All of them exploit workers' labor. All of them will slaughter millions to protect their profits. With the leadership of the Progressive Labor Party, workers must organize and unite to create a new society that serves the needs of our class.

As PL'ers in Pakistan recently declared: "Our local struggles have an impact on workers all over the world. Only international communist revolution under our international communist party can free the working class from the daily miseries of capitalism. Join us!"✪

Sham election of Imran Khan exposes rotten capitalist democracy

PAKISTAN, August 6—A wave of coercion from the judiciary, military, and inter-service intelligence agencies has rigged the general elections in favor of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its leader Imran Khan. The PTI has 174 seats in the parliament, effectively forming an absolute majority. The bosses' infighting is played out on the backs of the working class here. Pakistan, a nuclear power and the world's sixth most populous country, is positioned at the crosshairs of a U.S. and China rivalry (see editorial, page 2). The country's outcome has ramifications for the international working class.

Progressive Labor Party is putting our revolutionary line of "don't vote—revolt" before the masses. The working class needs organize under our red flag to get rid of this barbaric capitalist system by fighting for an international communist revolution.

Terror against working class

Different groups are executing terrorist attacks. Two hundred innocent people have been killed in just the first 15 days of July. It is not uncommon for the losing party to accuse the winning party of rigging the election and to foment violent protests in the streets.

These murders have provided the military grounds to deploy 371,000 troops in order to ensure a "fair and free" election.

"The army was hell-bent upon securing Khan's victory and even encouraged political parties with overt ties to terrorist groups to field several hundred candidates, alongside some 1,500 candidates tied to Pakistan's right-wing Islamist parties" (Foreign Affairs, 7/27).

The military has arrested and threatened political rivals, including the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), in the months leading up to the elections. They have also worked to disqualify PML-N candidates from running. The PTI represents the capitalists, feudalists, religious clerks, and retired officials supported by the state. Left with few options, the army cultivated Khan and his PTI party.

No good capitalist party

Capitalist bosses try to spread the illusion that "capitalism is good but the ruling party is bad so people need to bring a new party to rule them." But we in Progressive Labor Party are exposing the bosses' intentions to keep the capitalist system intact by blaming one or other ruling party.

There was censorship of the newspapers, social media and TV channels. The level of interference and political engineering is unprecedented," said the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan official. The National Accountability Bureau has been described as being used by the state to bring politicians in line by threatening to bring corruption cases against them.

The PML-N's campaign material was allegedly ripped apart by authorities while leaving PTI campaign materials untouched. There have been suggestions that candidates belonging to PML-N have been coerced to switch parties.

Punjab is the most populous province and remained key to elections. On the last day of scrutiny of nomination papers, seven PML-N candidates from Southern Punjab returned their tickets leaving no option for PML-N to field replacement candidates. This move prevented them the opportunity to win those seats. There have also been reports of election engineering in all provinces. This is nothing new; it happens in every election because capitalists always manipulate elections and manage their parties according to their interests.

Capitalism makes everyone in the ruling class rotten. The system only produces exploitation, poverty, inequality and injustice. Only communist revolution is a way out of this hell and PLP is striving to win the masses to the idea that elections are not a solution for our problems.

Courts protect ruling-class terrorism

The courts and the intelligence agency have been working with the military to elect Khan. In 2017, a corruption investigation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was launched. In response to this, the Supreme Court ousted Sharif disqualified him from holding office under Article 62 of the constitution.

The authorities have also launched an anti-terrorism investigation against PML-N leaders and opened criminal cases against nearly 17,000 party members.

The PTI recently gave 300 million rupees to Madrassa e Haqqaniya, a religious school which is a factory of terrorists. It produced all the terrorists who fought against the USSR and now it is producing "good terrorists" to kill the progressive and working-class people. Terrorism is of course supported by the state. Three terrorist political parties are expected to side with Imran Khan.

Don't vote revolt!

Comrades are explaining that the Pakistani state is under the control of brutal capitalist bosses. That's why nobody can talk against the narrative of terrorist organizations; nobody can raise a question about the internal and external security issues; and nobody is allowed to talk against the false ideology of Islamist organizations. Workers have no right to discuss communism or to criticize capitalism or to talk secularism. But fundamentalists have the right to kill anybody, anywhere and at any time. There is no security for the working class—they are being killed by extremists to spread terror across the country.

We are speaking against the elections with the slogan "Don't vote—Revolt" in order to convince the masses to forge a struggle for an international communist revolution under the red flag of PLP.

Capitalist bosses are confusing the working class by giving them an opportunity to vote to change their masters. No boss has an agenda to bring prosperity, equality and justice in the lives of workers. Comrades are bringing the working class closer to our line by exposing the reality of elections and the necessity of revolution. Long live international communist revolution and PLP!✪

DC transit workers get strike-ready

WASHINGTON, DC, July 15—Two thousand DC Metro transit workers overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike today. Speech after speech, workers called for the end of privatization and the bosses' strict disciplinary policies. Members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) pointed out the racist nature of the bosses' attacks. As the transit bosses attack the predominantly Black workers, they are attacking all workers, including the workers who ride the busses and trains. A strike authorization vote is symbolic and sharper fightback is necessary, such as job actions and a strike. We need to flex our working class muscles because eventually we need a revolution, the abolition of capitalism, and a communist world—workers' power!

The contract expired on June 30, 2016. After nearly a year of negotiations, the union held a series of mass meetings. The overwhelming sentiment from the workers was to continue negotiations, insist that our demands be met, and avoid arbitration which generally works against workers' interests. PL'ers are fighting to make the union strike ready in order to increase our strength for the coming struggle.

In September 2017, despite the objections of the membership, the union leadership invoked arbitration to resolve the contract dispute. In the arbitration hearing, Metro bosses called for eliminating the defined benefit pension system for new employees, increasing the cost of health insurance and a three-year wage freeze. As of today there has been no outcome of the arbitration process.

Today's strike vote did not address the stalled arbitration process, but rather centered on violations of the current collective bargaining agreement. The response of the press and the local politicians to the strike vote went from calling for congressional action to dissolving the union to reducing the local governments' financial contributions to Metro. One politician did express vague support for the workers but not for the strike. As usual, the press and politicians support the bosses.

Transit workers at Northern garage get strike-ready!

More fight ahead

There is a lot of work to do before a strike can be successful. There are over 8,000 members of the local and they need to be organized around the demands. Since a strike against the transit authority is illegal, the membership must be prepared for attacks from the courts. An illegal strike is no simple matter!

PLP is working hard to prepare for the fight ahead. A successful strike at Metro could strengthen the entire labor movement. Metro is key to the functioning of the country's capital. The last time the local went on a wildcat strike in 1978, the federal courts called it a national emergency. (Wildcat strike is when the workers go on strike without the approval of their union bosses.) Its effect this time would be even greater, and would lead to government and management reprisals.

The main task before us is to build the Party club at Metro and also strengthen the emerging rank and file leadership. This is particularly important because of the growing weakness of U.S. imperialism. The bosses do not want any serious challenges from the labor movement as they build racism and prepare for war. Stay tuned for further developments as we seek to grow the revolutionary movement even as we fight to improve the workers' day-to-day situation through intensified class struggle.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

The time I was an individualist vegan

I recently participated at a Summer Project in Mexico. This was my first trip out of the U.S. and it was an eye opener. I liked that the members came from the heart of the working class.

I remember a time when my sister and I smashed bread with cups. We called it bread cookies cause there was no other food to eat. This lasted for a couple of years until we were able to consistently afford real food. But we did have clean water, heat, and electricity.

Mexico was a shock because I never experienced the desperate conditions that the working class has to face here. I learned how Mexico is the highest consumers of Coca Cola, mainly because of its ability to kill any bacteria in its path. The water is un-drinkable due to its high levels of contaminates. The only way to get clean water is buying bottled water.

Yet, knowing this wasn't enough. I'm vegan, so I don't eat meat or cheese. During our trip to our comrade's houses I was nit-picky about the food. Though the local comrades made a wonderful spread of food for us, I spoke to the cook about preparing another dish without meat and cheese. Feeling bad about not being able to satisfy my "needs," they made me a special bowl of pasta soup.

At another comrade's house, we ate pizza, which is considered a type of luxury food only eaten during celebrations here. I ate the pizza and felt upset about abandoning my diet. So, I complained about the lack of tomato sauce on the pizza.

Afterwards, my comrades spoke to me about how individualistic my attitude had become. They told me how they don't have a lot but refusing the food—the best that they can offer—is like a slap in the face. The pizza was the best they could afford.

Another comrade broke it down further for me. He said, "if they had gold they would offer it to us. That is what food represents. It's a way of uniting and being accepted."

I felt horrible. I didn't realize what I was doing. I've been feeling isolated from people, being the only person who didn't speak Spanish.

It's interesting how the ruling class uses language like they use borders—to divide us. My comrades said they should have spoken to me about all this before the trip. I agreed. Another comrade added, "We can't expect you to know the cultural differences here. It's a learning curve."

When I see my comrades again, I will apologize for my behavior.

This trip opened my eyes to the reality that sharing across culture is a way of uniting with the working class. **Being a vegan is important to me but not more important than the working class.**

See page 3 for article about the Mexico Summer Project

★★★★★

73-year memorial of Hiroshima

August 6 marks the day the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. Three days later, the U.S. bosses dropped another one on Nagasaki. Once again we remember that the horrors of U.S. imperialism did not begin with Trump—from president Truman (who ordered the A-bombs and genocide), Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, Clinton (who started the war on immigrants, the war on welfare, mass incarceration), Bush II, to Obama (who ordered more drone strikes than all previous presidents combined and deported more people than all previous presidents combined, and did nothing to stop the recurrent murders of black people). It's not Trump. It's capitalism.

For seven decades, U.S rulers have tried to justify the A-bomb attacks by maintaining they were needed to force Japan's surrender and avoid a U.S. land invasion and a million U.S. casualties. In reality, Japan's rulers were ready to surrender before Hiroshima. The true purpose was to warn the then-socialist Soviet Union that the U.S. had a new and devastating weapon, and was ready to use it against any threat to the U.S. imperialists' world dominance. The obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki signaled the beginning of the Cold War between capitalists in the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

To this day, only the U. S. rulers have used nuclear weapons in war. It remains for the international working class to mete out justice to the most murderous criminals the world has ever known.

★★★★★

How we built solidarity after my sister received a death threat

Recently my younger sister experienced the terror caused by deadly capitalist culture. She is one of a group of high school friends who were threatened with death by a deeply disturbed fellow student. Feeling left out of their group, he reacted violently on social media promising to bring a gun to school to kill them. Police were called to the school and the young man was arrested—thankfully, he was not killed. And it is doubtful that he will receive the ongoing help and treatment he so drastically needs.

The most important development through this horrifying time is that my mother is in communication with several other of the parents involved. Some of them are working to take turns accompanying the students to afterschool activities to guarantee their safety.

My church has offered to provide support and to secure a space near the school where families and their supporters can meet regularly. It is through this kind of solidarity that working people secure both survival and fightback.

To advance this work, six of us from the church helped to develop and participate in a teach-in called "Beyond Gun Control." High school students largely led it. We made contact with two of them who had led a walkout from their school on the day of national action this earlier this year. They are involved in a peer mediation program to help resolve conflicts in their school before they reach the dire level at my sister's school. We are exploring a way to develop this kind of program, without cops, in other schools.

★★★★★

I protested JP Morgan Chase, financier of concentration camps

I participated in a march and civil disobedience with a community organization that "defends" the rights of workers. This march was to protest in front of the home of the multimillionaire owner of JP Morgan Chase, who finances the construction of private prisons (modern concentration camps). Immigration and Customs Enforcement is separating thousands of children from their parents and detaining them in these camps.

The youth and adult participants were angry and determined, but peaceful. Some participants delivered boxes of letters to the bank's boss, Jaime Dimon. We, members of PLP, know that this type of disobedience is theater because it shows the system's false democracy. We were direct participants in this action where people were arrested for blocking the street and locked up for more than two hours. We have to return to court by the end of the year. When I was being arrested I confronted the police, saying "why are you detaining me instead of this capitalist criminal."

In my mind I saw a sea of thousands of working class fighters taking over the streets or a bridge at the beginning of rush hour. I know that only then would we be strong enough to close down the street.

We know that this type of community organization is used by the authorities that want to numb our consciousness and paralyze our anger. We must not stop fighting until we win workers power.

★★★★★

Chicago's anti-gun violence march orchestrated by liberal bosses

I attended a march to protest the violence in the form of shootings and homicides which mostly occur on the west and south sides of Chicago. At least 1,433 people have been shot and 246 homicides have occurred so far this year (Chicago Tribune, 7/11).

This is reflective of a capitalist economy that disinvests in predominately Black and Latin areas of the city. These areas have high unemployment, lack of resources, and poorly funded schools. With few resources and opportunities, gang activity is common, maybe because of a large police presence.

The march plans were well-publicized on TV and the newspapers, and thousands came out to protest by shutting down the Dan Ryan Expressway, a main thoroughfare of the city. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends participated in the march and distributed hundreds of CHALLENGE. The marchers were multiracial, multigenerational, women and men who want the shootings to stop (see CHALLENGE, 8/8). Many carried signs with pictures of loved ones killed by police and gangs . Chicago is well known for police killings and has had to pay out millions of dollars to the family members of their victims.

Sure enough, on this day there was a large police presence, including Eddie Johnson, the Chicago chief of police. Johnson was seen to be walking hand-in-hand with Reverends Jesse Jackson and Michael Pfleger, a well-known priest from the south side who has protested the violence on a weekly basis.

This leadership of the march emphasized that the march would be peaceful and therefore "lawful." Jesse Jackson has as history of trying to keep a lid on workers anger, and Pfleger's role has been to keep workers from rebelling by trusting the system to solve these issues. The Mayor and the Chief of Police's main role is to prevent uprisings of the workers.

The bosses will tolerate peaceful protest as long as their power is not challenged. But real change will not come without rebellion and communist revolution. The law is an instrument used against the working class; as long as we are peaceful very little will actually change for us. That is why the bosses' agents will take leadership of any mass movement and lead it to passivism, to prevent revolution.

★★★★★

DISPROVING ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-STALINIST LIES

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Spectre of communism still haunts the bosses

The year is 2018. There is no red beacon of hope in either Russia or China. Hundreds of millions of workers are not debating and organizing for communism. Yet, capitalists today still fear communism!

They have good reason. Only communist revolution offers freedom from exploitation, oppression, poverty, fascism, and terror for the working class of the world.

Communist parties are illegal in Estonia, Indonesia, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Myanmar, Poland, Romania, South Korea, Ukraine, Georgia, Hungary, and in the U.S.

Today communist parties are banned:

- In countries traditionally in the American 'sphere of influence" – that have been dominated politically and economically by U.S. imperialism. In Latin America communists and militant workers are still repressed, arrested, murdered. But, as U.S. influence as weakened somewhat, *legal* restrictions on communist parties have been lifted.
- In Indonesia, after the bloody coup d'etat of 1965-66, during which between 500,000 and two million leaders, activists, and rank-and-file supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party were murdered, along with supporters of the ousted President Sukarno, all with the help of the U.S. CIA. This disaster was caused by the communists trying to exist legally, unprepared for fascist repression and the line of "uniting with the anti-colonial bourgeoisie" (Sukarno). PLP condemned this phony Marxist line and practice then, and we still do!
- In Islamist Iran, after the events of 1983, when almost all the leadership and activists in the Tudeh Party (successors to the Communist Party of Iran), plus others, were arrested and killed – as many as 30,000 persons. The Tudeh Party supported the so-called "Islamist revolution" of 1979 – which was really carried out by the "mujaheddin", left militants—in hope of joining the government and gaining power by the revisionist "peaceful" road. Instead they were murdered. In 1979 PLP issued a pamphlet, translated into Farsi, urging Iranian communists, workers, and activists NOT to trust the Islamists.
- In South Korea, a U.S. imperialist creation, dominated by fascists who collaborated with the Japanese imperialists and murdered anyone even suspected of being a protestor.
- In countries where all political parties are forbidden: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the Emirates. All of these are in the U.S. economic and political "sphere of influence."
- In Thailand, "communist activity" is forbidden.
- In Turkey, all "communist agitation" has been forbidden for decades.
- The same was true in South Africa, after the fall of the racist, fascist, apartheid white supremacist government, which the U.S. had always supported.
- In Pakistan, communist activity was outlawed during the Cold War, for 40 years, from 1954 to 1994.
- The U.S. also officially banned communist organization and action under the Communist Control Act, signed into law by president Dwight Eisenhower in 1954.

Anti-communism is making a comeback. As the U.S. rulers gear up for war with its rivals Russia and China (former socialist countries), they will use their tool of anti-communism to fool workers and build patriotism.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Racist government poisoned kids' brains to cut costs

NYT Book Review, 8/5 ("What the Eyes Don't See" By Mona Hanna-Attisha) — …In April 2014,… the mayor of Flint, Michigan,….switched Flint's water supply from a tested and reliable source… to a cheaper and untested one, the nearby Flint River….defend[ing] the move as necessary cost-cutting….

[It] led to one of the biggest public-health disasters of our time. The water from the Flint River turned out to be highly corrosive, causing the city's old pipes to leach lead into the drinking water. Lead…cause[s] irreversible damage to human brains and nervous systems, especially children's. Yet in Flint, a predominantly African-American city, nobody worried too much about it….Water tests were done haphazardly. Officials rigged data and intimidated activists. Thousands of kids drank water that may have permanently harmed their brains.

This is the story of a government poisoning its own citizens, and then lying about it," Mona Hanna-Attisha writes…."what happens when the very people responsible for keeping us safe care more about money and power than they care about us, or our children….Analysis of Flint residents' blood tests proved indisputably that they were being poisoned…a crime of tragic proportions….

Children in…Flint…[have a] life span…15 years shorter than that of a child born in a neighboring suburb…. "A group home for abused and neglected kids…had a water-lead level over 5,000" parts per billion….(The…mandated action level for lead in drinking water is 15 parts per billion.)….The white mayor of Flint to the public-health officials… claimed that ensuring safe drinking water was not their responsibility.

Middle East: Women domestic workers suffer slave labor, torture; fight back

NYT, 8/7 (op-ed, Laura Secorum) — From Lebanon to Saudi Arabia, many employers view domestic workers, a large majority…women, as servants who do not deserve the freedom to leave the house or even the right to rest….

…A body of a Filipino worker was found inside the freezer of an abandoned apartment that belonged to her employer in Kuwait. Last year, an employer in the United Arab Emirates was found guilty of torturing her Indonesian domestic worker and causing her permanent deafness….

…Much of the Arab world…operate[s] within an…exploitative structure — the "kafala" system, which places a domestic worker entirely at the mercy of her employer. She is not allowed to leave her employer or the country without the employer's consent. Escaping is a crime, punishable by arrest and deportation….

…There are about 1.6 million female migrant domestic workers in the Middle East and Gulf region….Recruitment agents focus largely on profit, which leads to…migrants paying exorbitant fees….

In Lebanon, where abuse is rampant, domestic workers have already set up a union….The government…[is] denying the organization legal status and deporting its leaders.

Capitalism's private prisons for caged immigrant children = billion-dollar business

NYT, 7/31 (op-ed, Scott Stringer, Javier Valdés) — The Trump administration's decision to separate migrant children and their parents…and its anemic efforts to reunite families…have been widely condemned as cruel. But the president's so-called solution — to imprison immigrants as families in detention centers — is equally abhorrent.

This policy, which will undoubtedly cause immense human suffering, has one clear beneficiary: the private prison industry.

In recent decades, private prison operators have opened centers to detain immigrants and their children. This means…when a mother escapes life-threatening dangers in her home country and arrives in the United States only to be imprisoned in one of these centers, they profit. When a family seeking refuge here is put behind bars, they profit. When a new center needs to be opened… they profit.

This industry has turned human suffering into a billion-dollar business.

…Conditions in private prisons are dismal….A report from the A.C.L.U. uncovered evidence that people held in private prisons were denied access to functioning toilets and proper medical care and served inedible food, and had no opportunity to challenge…use of solitary confinement….

Private prisons'….bottom line depends on locking people up….These companies have a financial interest in perpetuating the inhumane "zero tolerance" policies….

Israeli rulers make racist apartheid the law

NYT, 7/31, (op-ed Sayed Kashua) — …The Nationality Law….says Israel is a Jewish state….

…The law that Israel's Parliament passed this month without using terms like "racial segregation," "discrimination" and "supremacy"….[means my] 12-year-old…is a citizen of a state that holds that he is inferior because of his non-Jewish origin….When Israel was founded on the ruins of the Palestinian people in 1948, it was defined as a Jewish state. The Palestinians who…became Israeli citizens…have always been viewed as an undesirable demographic burden and subjected to discrimination...The new law….has turned de facto racism into de jure racism.

The law seeks to legislate [that]…non-Jewish minorities…will never be equal….[and] by law will, by definition, reject any minority member…even if…fluent in its culture,…writes literature in its language, respects its laws, serves its society….

The Nationality Law…rejects any collective… memory other than the Zionist one…revoking Arabic's status as an official state language….Article 7 of [the] law…has a distinctly colonialist tone, addressing Jewish settlement without any mention of the 20 percent of the population who are Arabs and who live in crowded conditions and under continuous threat of having their land appropriated.

Movie review of 'Sorry to Bother You'

Anti-capitalist film plants seeds for class struggle

This review contains no *major spoilers. Submit your own analysis of the film to CHALLENGE.*

The pro-revolutionary rapper-turned-director/writer Raymond Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You* captures the madness and absurdity workers are forced to live in every day under capitalism. This is a must-see anti-capitalist movie filled with revolutionary potential and optimism that centers a Black worker-led multiracial cast fighting for a greater truth.

This trippy genre-breaking film is about a Black working-class anti-hero Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) who moves up the corporate telemarketing ladder by "sticking to the script" and using his "white voice." Riley combines workplace comedy and a messy existential, political drama with a sci-fi dystopia not far from our own reality. The conclusion is nightmarishly poetic and a true show of multiracial unity and fightback—all done through real working-class characters that resonate with the masses.

There are so many ideas this film touches on, including: the racist nightmare you can't wake up from when you choose your individual success over the collective; the billionaires that exploit workers in what is basically prison labor and hide it through their hippy New-Age-type maxims; how the logic of capitalism (drive for profit) inherently leads to churning human beings into workhorses; real characters who have contradictions and struggles; a fully-formed female character, Detroit (Tessa Thompson), who has a struggle between organizing and art; the art scene that's doomed when isolated from class struggle; and the impossibility of making change by yourself. There is no way we can explore them all (that's where you, dear reader, come in!)

A scab is the scum of the earth

It is very significant that the central action around which the story develops is a work stoppage. This event presents the main characters with the choices that force them to confront their main contradiction, one the director has posed as one of individualism versus collectivity.

Sorry to Bother You re-introduces the term "scab" into mass consciousness, and does so in a way that retains the utterly reprehensible character of the scab established over many decades of bitter class struggle, much of it communist-led. A work stoppage is posed as the only meaningful political intervention, voting as a strategy for real change is dismissed in a masterful minute of the film. Riley in an interview with the New York Times says,

> *All we're taught is that those who are rich deserve to be rich because they worked harder than the rest of us or they're smarter… [B]ut there are definitely very poor people who are very smart and work hard. It's just that this system can only have a few people on the top. Yes, maybe you can make better choices and be the crab that gets out of the bucket — but that'll be at the expense of all the other crabs in the bucket.*

Also, can we recall a major film where the police are so irredeemably brutal, so unquestionably on the wrong side?

The main characters are all Black —Cassius and Detroit—but this is not a "Black film" that panders to identity politics. Rather, it is a film where, very intentionally, class politics eclipse race politics, and Black people take the lead in the class struggle. This is another choice that cuts against the grain of dominant bourgeois consciousness today.

Why would Hollywood back this?

We should ask the question, why does Hollywood promote this movie? Why now? The short answer is that capital wants to control everything, including anti-capitalism. This dynamic is not under Riley's control.

Hollywood is an engine of ideological production and it does not practice "free speech." Hollywood has a long history of smashing communists. The old communist movement, though mortally wounded by self-inflicted revisionism, presented a threat that nonetheless could not be tolerated.

At the moment, Riley is being treated differently. The big difference is that, for now, he has renounced the need for a revolutionary political party and hews more closely to the more (in the long term) harmless decentralized style of activism of the Occupy phenomenon. (Let's not forget that Occupy was orchestrated by the CIA and its brutal crackdown was coordinated by the FBI.)

The bourgeoisie can try to smash its enemies or absorb them. The latter works just as well as the former from the perspective of capital.

It is not a knock on Riley to say big media network pushing for *Sorry to Bother You* in a major way maintain direct lines of communication with the State Department and Pentagon. Hollywood has a state-coordinated program to produce films that result in a more patriotic U.S. populace versed in a diverse set of war scenarios, both present and future.

To his credit, Riley is careful to shine a light on the depravity of the "art" scene both high and low in *Sorry to Bother You*. Take a look at what big media outlets bombards society with and even what "cultured" folks are willing to pay money for in the film and you are horrified by the moral rot of a society in the grips of growing fascism.

Though Riley has a long-term relationship with major media outlets and the art scene, his film directs a withering critique at those same institutions.

Liberal bosses want to control the narrative

The press that represents the main liberal wing of the U.S. ruling class is all over Riley. The New York Times published a long reverent piece of Riley and even did a special screening and a conversation with Riley and Lakeith Stanfield. Part of that conversation was about the "presence of labor" in film and the importance of art to reflect and advance reality:

> NYT's mouthpiece Logan Hill: *A film that talks about labor, something we don't talk a lot about in movies—*
>
> Riley: *Which is weird because they are in our lives. They are in all of human being's lives since the beginning of work but they are not in film. How much editing has there been in writers' heads and producers' to keep these issues out? How many noon-time cafe dates have you ever had? How many noon-time cafe dates are in films?*

The bourgeoisie seems to want to absorb Riley. They aim to launch a very broad-based movement for a more inclusive imperialism, a more multicultural fascism. The Trump phenomenon has deeply alienated many people, some so greatly that for perhaps many millions, *Sorry to Bother You* will come as a breath of fresh air. These millions are up for grabs, and our Party is small.

'You have to join with other people'

Sorry to Bother You is another chance for communists to make our case, to show how powerful our ideas can be. Boots Riley was, after all, raised by Progressive Labor Party. His pro-revolutionary ideas were forged in PLP. He was introduced to us at 14 and he participated at a Summer Project around organizing farm workers in Delano, California. His father Walter Riley was an auto-industrial organizer and leader in Detroit.

Short of calling for communism and joining the Party, this is THE film to watch and discuss with your friends, co-workers, family, and community members. As Riley said in an interview with Vox (6/6):

> *You're not going to change any of this by yourself. You're not going to change it by making a cute art statement, you're not going to change it by just figuring out how to be there, to do something that gives you more power on your own. You have to join with other people and make a movement.*

Does that inspire you to join a mass organization and present communist ideas in a way that's accessible to everyday people? It sure inspired us.✪

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